

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ID, ASEAN, US, PORG
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH: FOREIGN POLICY

1. SUMMARY: IN A RELATIVELY BRIEF TREATMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN HIS AUGUST 17 INDEPDENCE DAY MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT, PRESIDENT SUHARTO SURPRISINGLY GAVE FIRST EMPHASIS TO SUPPORT FOR THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT MEETING. HE ALSO ATTRIBUTED NEW TENSION IN INDOCHINA AND AFRICA PARTLY TO MAJOR POWER INVOLVEMENT, CALLED FOR A RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL GOALS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ASEAN'S DEVELOPMENT AND SINGLED OUT AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA AS COUNTRIES WITH WHOM INDONESIA WAS DEVELOPING CLOSER RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MIDDLE EAST: IN THE FIRST FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE HE
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COVERED, SUHARTO NOTED THAT APPREHENSION STILL ENSHROUDED THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE APPROACH THAT GREW OUT OF THE SADAT/BEGIN MEETINGS NINE MONTHS AGO APPEARED RECENTLY TO HAVE COME CLOSE TO A DEAD END. "THE WORLD HAS NOW BEEN GIVEN NEW HOPE" HE CONTINUED, "WITH THE PLANS FOR A SUMMIT MEETING IN CAMP DAVID NEXT MONTH. WE HOPE THAT THIS MEETING CAN OPEN A NEW PATH TOWARDS A JUST SETTLEMENT, SO THAT

A FOUNDATION FOR PEACE IS BUILT IN THE MIDDLE EAST".
(COMMENT: SUHARTO'S MENTION OF THE CAMP DAVID TALKS AS
THE FIRST TOPIC IN THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WAS A PLEASANT
SURPRISE SINCE HE USUALLY DEALS WITH MIDDLE EASTERN
POLICY IN GENERALITIES ADDRESSED TO INDONESIA'S MUSLIM BROTHERS).

3. INDOCHINA: HE POINTED TO A NEW TENSION IN THIS REGION
WHICH COULD BECOME MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE THE INTERESTS
OF THE MAJOR WORLD POWERS WERE BECOMING INVOLVED AND SUCH
DEVELOPMENTS WOULD AFFECT THE REST OF SEA AS WELL.

4. AFRICA: HE DESCRIBED THE
NEW TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS BUILDING UP IN AFRICA WHICH
MIGHT ALSO BECOME MORE SERIOUS BECAUSE BIG POWER INTERESTS
WERE INTERMINGLING.

5. THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: REPEATING RECENT WORDS OF
HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, SUHARTO SAID "THE COLD WAR...IS
SHOWING SIGNS OF BECOMING HOTTER AGAIN," AND "THE WORLD
IS ONCE AGAIN IN NEED OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT." HE
THEN WENT ON TO DECRY THE RIFTS AND RUPTURES THAT HAD
APPEARED IN THE MOVEMENT, PARTLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE
INFILTRATION OF BIG POWER INTERESTS. INDONESIA, HE PROCLAIMED,
WAS DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO SEE THAT THE MOVEMENT
ADHERED TO THE ORIGINAL GOALS, RATHER THAN MEMBERS
ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BECOME "MERE TOOLS OF COMPETING
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WORLD POWERS". (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FOR REASONS OF PRE-
SERVING NON-ALIGNED UNITY, INDONESIA DOES NOT PUBLICLY
ATTACK USSR/CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT, SUHARTO'S COMMENTS DECRYING CONFLICTS AND RUPTURES
IN THESE AREAS REFLECT THE DEEP CONCERN THAT INDONESIA
HAS PRIVATELY ABOUT CURRENT CUBAN POLICIES.)

6. ASEAN: IN A SURPRISINGLY BRIEF PARAGRAPH ON ASEAN,
SUHARTO SAID THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PILLARS OF
INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY WAS COOPERATION IN ASEAN
CIRCLES. " IN MY JUDGEMENT," HE STATED, "WE HAVE PASSED
THE PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENTS IN THE GROWTH OF ASEAN AND HAVE
NOW ARRIVED AT A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION THROUGH INCREASING
OUR COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS." (COMMENT: HIS FAILURE
TO MAKE EVEN A TOKEN REFERENCE TO THE JUST CONCLUDED
US/ASEAN TALKS IN WASHINGTON MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HE
WOULD HAVE ALSO HAD TO ADDRESS JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, CANADA,
NEW ZEALAND AND EEC/ASEAN RELATIONS AS WELL IN ORDER TO AVOID
FAVORITISM.)

7. NEIGHBORS TO THE SOUTH AND EAST: IN HIS LAST COMMENT
ON FOREIGN POLICY, SUHARTO SINGLED OUT AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA AS NEIGHBORS TO WHOM INDONESIA
WAS BECOMING CLOSER THROUGH AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP
"MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND MUTUALLY NEEDED COOPERATION".
(COMMENT: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HIS NEIGHBORS TO THE
EAST WAS UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO BE A SOOTHING GESTURE
OF FRIENDSHIP AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF PRESS OUTCRY IN
AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA OVER INDONESIAN SECURITY
OPERATIONS ON THE IRIAN JAYA-PNG BORDER.

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